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April 2012



Oregon's Poverty Fighting Network

# NEWSLETTER

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### Damage of Automatic Budget Cuts on Programs that Serve Vulnerable Children and Families

The Coalition on Human Needs recently documented the damage that could result from automatic budget cuts on programs that serve vulnerable children and families.

The Coalition found that under the automatic cuts:

- 75,000 children would not be able to receive Head Start services
- 25,000 children could not attend safe and educational child care, putting an enormous burden on low-income working parents
- 17,000 seniors would no longer receive Meals on Wheels or be able to eat at centers
- 2,300 health research efforts would end prematurely or never begin
- 670,000 people would not receive job training
- 1.5 million low-income students in elementary and secondary schools would be harmed by program cuts, and more than 16,000 teachers and other staff would lose their jobs
- 460,000 special education students would receive fewer or no services and 12,500 special education staff would lose their jobs
- 1.3 million college students would lose or face reductions in their supplemental education grants
- 734,000 households would no longer receive help paying for their home heating



For the most up-to-date calendar of events, check out the CAPO web calendar [here](#).

**May 3**

CAPO Legislative Committee

**May 3**

CAPO Executive Committee

**May 18**

MCCAC Annual  
Open House and BBQ

**May 17**

EPC Meeting

**May 28**

CAPO Office Closed  
(Memorial Day)

**May 30**

CAPO Finance Committee

**May 31**

MWVCAA Community

For nine particularly critical programs, including K-12 education, Head Start, home energy assistance, and the Women, Infants and Children nutrition program, the report also includes data on state by state cuts.

Read the full report [The Coalition For Human Needs](#)

*Submitted by Oregon Energy Coordinator Jess Kincaid*

## Partners Building a Brighter Future

In January 2011, Oregon Housing and Community Services awarded UCAN \$1,322,789 in grant funding to install solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on low-income housing throughout Douglas and Josephine counties. This funding is part of a larger grant program developed by the United States Department of



Energy called Sustainable Energy Resources for Consumers (SERC). The benefits of this program are two fold, not only does it lower energy costs for Oregon's low-income residents but it also supports Oregon jobs. From installers to manufacturers, all of the solar companies involved in these SERC projects reside here in Oregon.

By the end of March, the allotted grant dollars had been spent on a total of 103 units and 14 projects in both counties. UCAN chose to install PV on some of our UCAN owned low-income housing as well as on a few of our community partners housing stock including NeighborWorks Umpqua, The Housing Authority of Douglas County, and Options for Southern Oregon. Both UCAN and our selected community partners assessed the need to reduce energy costs for the low-income populations we serve and selected units that would have the greatest impact on the clients of all four non-profit agencies.

Residents will directly benefit from the PV installations. Simply put, power generated from the PV systems in the housing units will reduce the electric utility expenses to the residents. Lower utility costs mean that residents will be able to designate more money towards basic



necessities, like food, medical expenses, transportation and of course other utility bills. For UCAN, participation in these projects enables our agency to attain our energy conservation goals as well as reduce utility expenses for those greatly impacted by the current economic climate.

*Submitted by UCAN Marketing & Fund Development Director Tena Lammers*

Open House

**June 7**

CAPO Annual Business Meeting

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Visit the [CAPO Archive](#) for older issues.

**Grant  
Info**

The CAPO Grant Opportunities web page has been updated with all new funding opportunities!

[Union Pacific Community Based Grant Program](#)

**Deadline: May 1**

[Stinson Miller Foundation](#)

**Deadline: May 15**

## MWVCAA Open House May 31

Mid-Willamette Community Action Agency proudly celebrates its 45th year serving Marion and Polk Counties, as well as the opening of our newly remodeled building. We hope you all have a chance to come by and tour our new facilities at 2475 Center St NE, Salem, during our Community Open House on Thursday May 31 from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

*Submitted by MWVCAA Administrative Assistant Nancy Ibarra*

## Community Action 2012: Strengthening the Network

### 2012 Region 8 and 10 Conference

The 2012 Region 8 and 10 Community Action Conference will be held September 18-20, 2012 in Rapid City, South Dakota at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn.

The Conference will begin at 1:00 p.m. on September 18 and will conclude early afternoon of the 20th.

The Conference speaker line-up will include David Bradley with NCAF; Don Mathis and Lindley Dupree, Community Action Partnership, CAP-LAW, Hugh Weber, Social Networking; Cindy Elifrits-Peterson, Maximizing Excellence; and much more! This speaker line-up will be packed with information from our National Partners as well as local experts in their fields.

## Save The Date!

Please plan to attend the 2012 Region 8 & 10 Conference  
 "Community Action 2012 - Strengthening the Network"  
 September 18-20, 2012  
 Rushmore Plaza Conference Center  
 Rapid City, South Dakota

The evening plans include tours to a Chuck Wagon Dinner and Show and the lighting of Mt. Rushmore, a bus trip to Deadwood and a CAP-PAC Fundraiser cocktail party and entertainment. There will also be time to take in some of the many tourist highlights in the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota.

For more information or to be added to the mailing list, please contact Darci Bultje, SD Community Action Coordinator at [dbultje@rocsinc.org](mailto:dbultje@rocsinc.org).

*Submitted by South Dakota State Association Community Action Coordinator Darci Bultje*

## Tips on Securing Sponsors

We all seek sponsors, whether for events, workshops, conferences, activities or services. The business community is glad to oblige – just keep in mind that there has to be a good fit or both parties to mutually benefit from the investment of the sponsor. Most business will state clearly on their Websites or in their annual reports what exactly they like to support in the community: kids, education, cultural activities or otherwise.

### National Endowment for Financial Education

Deadline: June 5

Find more new listings on the  
CAPO site.

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The surest way to get those sponsorship dollars is to find a good fit, make the case to the company and then prove that the investment did in fact benefit the company.

Read the full article for [a dozen tips for getting your target business to invest](#) and then to continue in a longer-term relationship with your organization.

*Submitted by ao non-profit strategies & affairs Libbi Loseke Winter*

## Ski and Ride

It was that simple! At Mount Ashland on Sunday, March 25 with five or more cans of nonperishable food you could ski or snowboard all day for free! The giveaway was part of Mount Ashland's annual "Ski & Ride against Hunger Day," with all donated food going to the ACCESS Food Share Pantry Network to feed the hungry through 25 pantries in Jackson County.

It snowed seven inches during the day on Mt. Ashland for the event, but it didn't keep skiers and snowboarders who showed up with at least five cans of food as a donation to ACCESS. 4,943 pounds of food were collected on the mountain that day! "This is a great opportunity for the community to enjoy a day of fun on the mountain, while at the same time helping families and individuals meet their basic nutritional needs," said Philip Yates, ACCESS nutrition programs director.



The free all-day lift tickets — good from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 25 — regularly cost \$43 for adults and \$35 for kids and seniors on the weekend. Mt. Ashland donated 927 lift tickets, 284 more tickets than last year, equaling a value of \$38,007 toward this important community event.

"It's a great partnership with ACCESS and our guests certainly appreciate the opportunity to come up and enjoy a day of free skiing or snowboarding. Our turnout today also demonstrates that skiers and snowboarders are community conscious individuals," explained Rick Saul, the ski area's marketing director.

*Submitted by ACCESS Development Specialist Christine Allwardt*

## Defining "Poverty" Matters

*From the March 11, 2012 Sunday edition of The Statesman Journal, a commentary by Oregon Center for Public Policy (OCP).*

More Oregonians became officially "poor" this year, following publication of new federal poverty guidelines. These guidelines offer an important -- albeit inadequate -- answer to the question, "What is poverty?"

Usually published in January or February each year, the guidelines help determine eligibility for many public and safety net programs. Because the 2012 guidelines raised the income level at which a household is considered poor, more Oregonians now qualify for the Oregon Health Plan, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly known as food stamps) and other programs that use this definition of poverty.

The guidelines, often referred to as the "federal poverty level," vary by family size. For a three-person family, such as a single parent supporting two kids, the federal poverty level in 2012 is \$19,090. That translates to \$367 a week.

Read the rest of [Defining "Poverty" Matters](#).

## New Construction EmPowers Local Mom



Communities thrive when neighbors help neighbors, and organizations work together to provide the kind of holistic support that people need in times of crisis. That has certainly been true for Michelle Humiston. Only four years ago, she and her five children were alone in Coos Bay, staying at a shelter with nothing but their clothes. Now she is working as a carpenter's apprentice on Oregon Coast Community Action's new Child and Family Resource Center.

Michelle knew what she wanted to do, but just couldn't catch a break to get there. Michelle was a TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) client barely getting by, when she walked through the doors at Oregon Coast Community Action (ORCCA). Her case manager suggested she enroll in the EmPower program, an innovative energy assistance program.

EmPower offers intensive case management that works with motivated households to improve their circumstances. Services go beyond energy use, and support a comprehensive approach including education, nutrition, employment, and medical resources to help clients achieve their goals.

Through the EmPower program, ORCCA helped Michelle find and keep her housing, reduce her energy bills, go back to school, and two of her children enrolled in Head Start. Along the way she worked with South Coast Business Employment Corporation (SCBEC) to get more training and experience.



Michelle worked with SCBEC and South Western Oregon Community College (SWOCC) to complete the Oregon Green Tech Certificate program. With help from SWOCC, Michelle was connected with Oregon Tradeswoman, Inc., and completed an 8-week intensive training program in Portland that allowed her to get the credentials she needed to work as a carpenter.



"I have come a long way," said Michelle.

"It has been awesome, we wouldn't have survived without the help of so many people"



Having completed the program in the fall, Michelle applied for work and, in a twist of fate, the first job she was offered was working for P&C Construction on the new Child and Family Resource Center, which

will house new classrooms for Coos Bay Head Start. As a Head Start parent and Policy Council Member, it is a full circle as Michelle is now on post-TANF and has strong prospects for the future.

The new Child and Family Resource Center is expected to open in Fall 2012. The new building will house 7 Head Start classrooms, parent education rooms, client resource and intake rooms for the Essential Services department, and office space for other departments. Under the design and supervision of Scott Edwards Architecture as well as the development expertise of Carroll Community Investments, P&C Construction has been working hard to move dirt, cut trees, and get the site ready to house the future home of Oregon Coast Community Action. Many of the suppliers and subcontractors are local, adding jobs and funds to the local economy.

"Michelle is doing an outstanding job for us. We've been impressed with the talent and strong work ethic of the local craftspeople. It's still a tough economy and it's great when we can help drive the dollars back into the community." Says Brian Shoemaker, project manager for P&C Construction.

#### **About ORCCA**

Oregon Coast Community Action is a non-profit network of programs that help feed, house, warm and educate the communities of the South Coast. For more information about ORCCA, please call (541) 435-7080, or learn more at [www.orcca.us](http://www.orcca.us).

#### **About P&C Construction**

P&C Construction Company is a third-generation Oregon-based, commercial construction company, in business for 50 years. Known for

community partnering, P&C's past Oregon Coast projects include Neah-Kah-Nie Middle School, Clatsop Community College, and Columbia Memorial Hospital.

*Submitted by ORCCA Public Relations and Volunteer Coordinator Amanda D'Souza*

## **Community Action Early Head Start Honored for Innovative Collaboration**

Community Action Early Head Start in Washington County, Oregon, was honored on April 5 by the Washington County Department of Health as Outstanding Organization for 2012. The award was jointly presented to Community Action Early Head Start and Coffee Creek Correctional Facility for their partnership in introducing a breast feeding program that allows mothers participating in the Early Head Start program, located on the Coffee Creek campus, to make breast milk available to their infants while incarcerated.



*(Image above: Sharon Bolmeier (left), Early Head Start Family Support Teacher at Coffee Creek and Kathy Zane, Program Area Supervisor for Early Head Start are presented with the 2012 Outstanding Partner Award by the Washington County Department of Health.)*

Recognizing that a critical time of bonding was being lost between incarcerated mothers and their infants or toddlers, a partnership between Community Action and the Oregon Department of Corrections was formed in 2000 to support maternal bonding, child development and successful parenting. When the idea of bringing an Early Head Start model to Coffee Creek was introduced, there was a willingness on the part of corrections personnel to give the concept a serious look because it matched their philosophy for family development. A program focused on parental training and family interaction made sense because 80% of the women entering the Oregon prison systems are mothers. With 95% returning to the community, most reunite with children. And research supports the theory that an early bond between mother and child reduces recidivism and increases the likelihood for sustainable success.

The Early Head Start program at Coffee Creek is just one of two such programs in the United States, serving up to eight incarcerated mothers and their children at a time. Parent-child visits take place two days per week, for 3.5 hours each day at a bright and welcoming child



development center located on the grounds of the correctional facility. Early Head Start staff work with both mother and child to encourage constructive and nurturing interaction grounded in proven educational and developmental strategies. Over the years, a highly collaborative partnership has evolved with Coffee Creek and the Oregon Department of Correction, making it possible to get innovative strategies like the breast feeding program off the ground. Now in its fourth year, this endeavor is one more way that Early Head Start is changing the lives of incarcerated mothers and their children, encouraging a bond that will last a lifetime.

*Submitted by Community Action Director of Development and Community Relations,  
Lisa Brown*

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